

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH.

MID LEWICH URBAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.HEALTH REPORT FOR 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1944.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	1,956 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population.. ..	6,020.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) ..	1,749
Rateable value	£26,746.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£105.8.0.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	120	65	55	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 21.59.
	{ Illegitimate	10	3	7	
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate	4	1	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 29.85.
	{ Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths		76	41	35	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 12.62.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	-	-
Total	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births ..	38.46.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	41.66.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12.
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - 1944.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	2	2
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac: polio-myel: & polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M).	-	-	-
uterus (F).	-	1	1
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2
15. Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	3	5	8
17. Diabetes	-	-	-
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	1	1	2
19. Heart Diseases	16	13	29
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	-	1
21. Bronchitis	3	-	3
22. Pneumonia	-	-	-
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	-	3	3
28. Nephritis	-	1	1
29. Puerperal & post-abortion: sepsis	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	-	1	1
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	2	-	2
33. Suicide	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
35. Other Violent Causes	3	-	3
36. All other causes	6	4	10
Totals	41	35	76

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no new or special provisions to report upon this year.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the year 3 bacteriological and 1 chemical examinations of the Town's supply were carried out and the Analyst's reports were entirely satisfactory.

In addition the quantity supplied to the Urban area has been ample throughout the year.

The Town's supply has no plumbo-solvent action, and, as a safeguard against bacterial contamination, chlorination is regularly applied.

As to the availability of the supply, all houses in the area, with the exception of two cottages receiving a piped supply

from a private source, are furnished with a piped service direct from the Council's water mains. There are no stand-pipes in the district. The quality of the private supply is at present under further investigation.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - I have nothing new to report upon under this section.

Closet Accommodation - There are only a limited number of pails in the built-up parts of the town, although 60 or so remain in the outlying parts of the area.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Services of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand
1. Dwelling Houses	308	-	20	18	2
2. Tents, Vans & Sheds	19	-	3	3	-
3. Courts, Yards and Passages	52	-	2	2	-
4. Sanitary Conveniences	1,550	-	63	61	2
5. Ashbins, Ashpits & Disposal	1,200	-	21	19	2
6. House Drainage	16	-	1	1	-
7. Ditches & Watercourses	63	-	4	3	1
8. Keeping of Animals	105	-	2	2	-
9. Slaughterhouses	36	-	-	-	-
10. Inspection of Food	393	-	5	5	-
11. Piggeries	36	-	1	1	-
12. Dairies & Milkshops	212	-	4	4	-
13. Factories & Workshops	36	-	-	-	-
14. Bakehouses	72	-	2	2	-
15. Offensive Trades	48	-	-	-	-
16. Overcrowding	15	-	-	-	-
17. Infectious Diseases etc.	139	-	-	-	-
18. Miscellaneous	67	-	3	3	-
TOTALS	4,367	-	131	124	7

FACTORIES INSPECTION

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	6	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	16	-	-
Other Premises	14	-	-
Totals	36	-	-

All factories were kept free of nuisance, emergency exits kept clear; all factories and workshops use the Town's water for drinking and washing purposes. Five warnings given as to emergency escape doors.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

All houses have been fairly well maintained, and no serious defects have been met with.

Two old houses in a dilapidated condition have been closed by arrangement with the owners.

Overcrowding - There have been some cases of overcrowding due to influx of labour and Evacuees but this is now rapidly diminishing.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply - During the year 6 samples of milk being retailed in the area were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. One of the six samples contained living Tubercle Bacilli. As a result of inspections made at the farm by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture one animal was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

2 samples of pasteurised milk were also examined during the year and both proved satisfactory.

- (b) Meat and other Foods - No slaughtering of animals has taken place in the area. Supervision has been maintained on retailers and only in a few instances has it been necessary for food to be destroyed.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, other than Measles, was low and calls for no special comment. The one case of Diphtheria notified was a non-civilian who travelled to Middlewich whilst incubating the disease.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1944.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	20	19	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Measles	44	2	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	31	1	30
Typhoid	1	-	1
Malaria	1	-	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 25 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 "	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	3	1	2	3	1	-

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 60.

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1944 - 58.

37 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year and of these one was reported upon as positive.

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1944 of 70% in the number of cases of vermin infestation compared with the 1943 figures. The following sets out the 1942, 1943 and 1944 figures of patients dealt with:-

	1942.	1943.	1944.
Cases of Scabies	153	104	37
Cases of Pediculosis	6	-	1
Cases of Scabies & Impetigo	17	41	5
Number of Households involved	76	74	29
	total 176.	total 145.	total 43.

At the time of writing, mid-1945, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still further decreasing.

(4) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced jointly in 1941 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1944 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 1,484. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1944 were:-

under 5 years	69.6%.
between 5 - 15 years	83.96%.

Towards the end of the year the Council agreed that those children who received protective treatment under their Scheme in 1941, when they were 3 years and under, and who are therefore in 1944 just about to start, or have already started, school, should receive a third reinforcement injection of 0.5c.c. A.P.T. The response on the part of the parents of such children was satisfactory and 75% of them attended for this "booster" treatment.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1944.				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0 -	1	2	2	-	Total inoculated aged under 5 years on 31st Dec.1944:- 293.
1 -	17	51	54	48	
2 -	32	33	28	23	
3 -	35	16	27	2	
4 -	30	15	17	5	
5 -	45	29	14	3	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec.1944:- 809.
6 -	72	28	15	5	
7 -	67	12	3	-	
8 -	68	10	1	1	
9 -	79	14	2	-	
10 -	86	10	1	-	Total aged 15 years and over:- 246. Grand total 1941 -1944:- 1,348.
11 -	65	12	3	1	
12 -	64	9	-	2	
13 -	86	6	2	4	
14 -	73	3	-	1	
15 and over	14	-	-	-	Grand total 1941 -1944:- 1,348.
Total each year	834	250	169	95	
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-					136.
GRAND TOTAL					1,484.

Number of young children who received a
"Booster" injection in 1944:-

59.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year and six houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up" and full use of the steam disinfector at the Davenham Isolation Hospital has been made during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1945.